CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A method of accelerating the entry of a text message, the method comprising:

a. receiving a thesaurus to be utilized during a text message session;

b. storing the thesaurus;

c. receiving one or more characters to be entered, displaying the one or more characters, and defining a search string that incorporates the one or more characters;

d. searching the thesaurus for an entry that at least partially matches the search string;

e. if an entry is found in the thesaurus, displaying a list of suggested completions that is associated with the found entry;

f. receiving a selection identifying one of the suggested completions; and

g. adding the selected completion to the displayed one or more characters.

2. The method of claim 1, wherein step 'e' further comprises returning to step 'c' if an entry is not found.

3. The method of claim 1, wherein step 'g', after adding the selected completion to the displayed one or more characters, further comprises returning to step 'c'.

4. The method of claim 1, wherein if a selection identifying one of the suggested completions is not received, step 'f' further comprises receiving a next one or more characters; updating the search string by adding the next one or more characters to the search string; and continuing at step 'd' with the updated search string.

5. The method of claim 1, wherein the received thesaurus is selected from a plurality of thesauri based on the topic of the text message session.

6. The method of claim 1, wherein the entries in the received thesaurus include terms that are combinations of numbers and/or characters and/or symbols and/or letters.

7. The method of claim 1, wherein the thesaurus is updated periodically.

8. The method of claim 1, wherein the each of the suggested completions in the list of the suggested completions is terminated with a space character.

9. The method of claim 1, wherein the list of suggested completions is sorted according to likelihood to be selected criteria.

10. A method of preparing and managing one or more thesauri at a server, wherein the one or more thesauri are used for accelerating the creation of a text message via an input device by a user, the method comprising the steps of:

a. receiving a first plurality of text messages over a first period of time, each of the first plurality of text messages being entered by at least one of a plurality of users engaged in a message session;

b. storing each of the received first plurality of text messages in a database;

c. preparing a thesaurus, the thesaurus being comprised of at least a portion of the received first plurality of text messages that are stored in the database; and

d. transmitting the thesaurus to at least one user.

11. The method of claim 9, further comprising the steps of:

e. receiving a second plurality of text messages over a second period of time;

f. storing each of the received second plurality of text messages in the database;

g. updating the thesaurus with one or more of the second plurality of text messages stored in the database; and

h. transmitting the updated thesaurus to at least one user;

whereby the previously received thesaurus is replaced by the updated thesaurus.

12. The method of claim 10, wherein each of the first and second plurality of text messages is associated with at least one topic and each of the first and second plurality of text messages is indexed in the database according to the at least one topic.

13. The method of claim 12, wherein the message session occurs in an Internet based chat room and the topic is selected based on the address of the chat room.

14. The method of claim 12, wherein the message session occurs in an Internet based chat room and the topic is selected based on the content of the chat room.

15. The method of claim 12, wherein the user identifies the topic.

16. The method of claim 10, wherein the step of transmitting the thesaurus is based at least in part on the identity of the user.

17. The method of claim 10, wherein periodically, a subsequent thesaurus request is received and in response to the subsequent thesaurus request, an updated version of the thesaurus is transmitted.

18. The method of claim 11, wherein the step of preparing a thesaurus comprises creating a thesaurus based at least in part for each topic in the database.

19. The method of claim 18, wherein the thesaurus request identifies an associated topic and the step of transmitting an updated thesaurus further comprises selecting a thesaurus based on the associated topic.

20 The method of claim 18, wherein the thesaurus request identifies the user's equipment and the step of transmitting an updated thesaurus further comprises selecting a thesaurus based on the user's equipment.

21. The method of claim 10, wherein each entry in the thesaurus has a score.

22. The method of claim 21, wherein the score is based on at least one criteria selected from a group of criterion including: the number of appearances of the word in the database, the number of different users that utilize the word, and when the word was added to the database.

23. The method of claim 10, wherein the thesaurus is filtered.

24. The method of claim 23, wherein filtering the thesaurus is based on at least one criteria selected from a group comprises of: dirty words, sexual words, curse words and short words.

25. The method of claim 10, wherein the input device is selected from the group of input devices consisting of writing pens, touch screen displays, keyboards, keypads, mouse and voice recognition.

26. A system for providing an auto completion feature in a text editing system, the system comprising:

a server that includes a database for storing a plurality of thesauri;

a plurality of user equipment, each of the plurality of user equipment including a text editing application, a data entry interface, a display and a communications interface to the server;

each of the plurality of user equipment being operable to:

engage in a text editing session;

receive a thesaurus from the server;

receive an entry of one or more characters from the data entry interface;

display a string including the one or more characters;

creating a search string including the one or more characters;

search the received thesaurus based on the search string;

if one or more candidate completions are identified, display at least a portion of the identified candidate completions to be selected by the user; and

modify the entry based on the selected candidate;

provide one or more complete entries to the server;

the server being operable to:

provide a thesaurus to at least one of the users equipment;

receive one or more complete entries from at least one of the plurality of user equipment; and

update the thesaurus based at least in part on the one or more complete entries.

27. The system of claim 26, wherein the server is further operable to maintain a plurality of thesauri and the request sent to the server for a thesaurus includes identifying information that the server uses to select one of the plurality of thesauri.

28. The system of claim 26, wherein the server is operable to maintain a plurality of thesauri by updating one or more of the thesauri based at least in part on the one or more complete entries.

29. The system of claim 27, wherein the identifying information includes a topic associated with the text editing session.

30. The system of claim 27, wherein the identifying information includes an identification of a particular user of the user equipment.

31. The system of claim 26, wherein a user can select one of the displayed candidate completions.

32. A server for providing one or more thesauri to a plurality of users, the server comprising:

a. a database operative to store text messages that are entered by a user during a text messaging session and received by the server;

b. a statistical processor operative to retrieve, from time to time, a section of the database, and then to process the retrieved section of the database to create an updated thesaurus of terms having high likelihood of being selected; and

c. a bank of thesauri being operative to receive and store the updated thesaurus from the statistical processor and deliver a requested thesaurus to a requesting user.

33. The server of claim 32, wherein each entry in the thesaurus has a score, the score representing the likelihood of the entry being selected.

34. The server of claim 33, wherein the score is based on at least one criteria selected from a group of criterion consisting of: the number of appearances of the word in the database, the number of different users that utilize the word, the frequency of use of the word, and when the word was added to the database.